

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	<input type="text"/>	25X1
SUBJECT	The City of Vidin and Vicinity	DATE DISTR.	12 January 1955	
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 Information

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 (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

Industrial Information

1. The Portselanova (Porcelin) factory is located approximately one kilometer south of Vidin near the road to Kula (N 43-53, E 22-32). The best china produced at the factory is exported to the USSR and only the poor-grade products reach the local market. During the summer months the factory employs approximately 500 workers, but the irregular supply of raw material during the winter months reduces the labor force to approximately 200 workers. The factory has three coal-burning furnaces whose smokestacks are visible from a considerable distance. 25X1
2. The Konopena factory, which processes hemp for industrial purposes, is located approximately three kilometers south of Vidin on the road to Lom. The processed hemp, packed in bales of 100 kilograms, is exported principally to the USSR and Czechoslovakia, and only a small part is used in local production of rope. The factory employs approximately 300 workers, of which more than 150 are women.
3. The 17 Partizani canned goods factory is located approximately three kilometers south of Vidin on the road to Kula. During the summer months the factory employs over 500 workers in three shifts, but during the winter months this number drops to approximately 100 workers in one shift. The factory area is surrounded by a barbed wire fence. 25X1
4. The Zakorka cigarette factory is located on the southern fringe of Vidin on the road to Lom. It makes five or six brands of cigarettes for local consumption and certain better brands for export. New machinery for the factory was imported from East Germany in 1953. In October 1954 the factory's output was 300 kilograms of cigarettes per hour.
5. A factory which processes sunflower seed for oil is located on the western fringe of Vidin on the road to Gradets (N 44-02, E 22-45). The factory, which operates during the autumn and winter months only, employs approximately 100 workers.

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6. The Tukhlenna brick factory is located approximately three kilometers north of Vidin on the road to Novo Selo (N 44-09, E 22-47). It employs approximately 100 workers in three shifts.
7. A tile factory is located approximately one kilometer south of Vidin on the road to Kula. It employs approximately 60 workers in three shifts.
8. The Georgi Dimitrov mechanical works, located on the southern fringe of Vidin near the road to Kula, comprises three large and modern 1-story buildings. It makes manually and electrically-operated pumps and electric pump motors of up to 50 horsepower. Almost all of its 1954 production has been exported to China and Korea. The plant employs approximately 400 workers in three shifts.
9. The Vidin power station does not generate enough current to meet the city's needs, and additional power must be brought in from the Lom and Mezdra (N 43-08, E 23-41) stations. The resultant supply is quite adequate, and power cuts or breakdowns occur infrequently.

Military Information

10. The military units at Vidin consist of the following:
 - a. The 3 Infantry Regiment; commanded by a colonel; has a strength of 800 to 1,000 men; is subordinate to the 3 Infantry Division, whose headquarters are at Vratsa; both barracks and regimental headquarters are located on the northern fringe of Vidin;
 - b. An antiaircraft Rota; with a strength of approximately 100 men; is quartered in four or five barracks approximately one kilometer north of Vidin; and
 - c. A small detachment of the Frontier Force; with a strength of 20 to 30 men; is quartered at 62 Boyan Chonos Street; barracks formerly occupied by a Frontier Force unit of approximately 100 men, which moved its headquarters and most of its personnel to Lom in April 1954.

Travel Restrictions

11. The frontier zone adjacent to the Yugoslav border begins from five to eight kilometers west of Vidin, and travel in that zone is greatly restricted. A resident of Vidin who wishes to go to some locality within the zone must obtain an Otkrit List, and must arrange in person all formalities at the Vidin police station at least four days in advance. He must fill out a special form (Zayavlenie Za Otkrit List), which is available at the police station and which calls for the following personal data: name and surname, date and place of birth, Party affiliation, criminal record, destination and reason for journey, exact address at destination, date of journey, and duration of stay within the frontier zone.
12. The applicant hands in his completed form, together with his identity card, to the police station, and he is generally told to report again at the end of four or five days. He then receives a permit or is told that his application was refused, with no reasons being given for refusal. In either case, the applicant's identity card is returned.
13. Permits for private visits in the frontier zone are valid for two or three days only; however, a person who cultivates land within the zone can obtain a permit valid for 10 to 15 days without difficulty. The validity of a permit cannot be extended, and anyone caught inside the zone without a valid permit is liable to severe punishment.

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14. Transportation for passengers to localities within the zone is furnished by bus or private horsecart, and permits do not have to be shown when a passenger buys a ticket or boards a bus. Police checks are carried out on the road inside the zone. While a bus might complete its route without its passengers being subjected to a single check, it may also be stopped and checked several times on a comparatively short journey.
15. Bus terminals in the frontier zone are usually located near the local police stations or, if there are none, near the village council office, where the policeman on duty at the council office checks the passengers' permits.

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